

Renewal of Los Alamos National Laboratory's Permit for Hazardous Waste Storage Units

This is the second installment of a three part series about the Los Alamos National Laboratory's hazardous waste facility permit renewal application and the opportunity for public involvement in this process. The next installment will appear a week from today.

LAST WEEK...

We outlined the New Mexico Environment Department Hazardous Waste Bureau's permit renewal procedure. The Laboratory would like members of the community to be aware of this process and to participate in the upcoming public review of the draft permit.

The permit renewal request relates only to hazardous waste storage and treatment at specified locations on-site, and not to disposal activities.

This week, we describe how the renewed permit will help minimize risks from the storage of hazardous waste at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

The renewed permit will regulate the treatment and storage, not disposal, of hazardous waste and the hazardous component of mixed waste (hazardous waste and radioactive waste) at a number of locations shown at Los Alamos National Laboratory. It will not address the management of radioactive waste or the radioactive component of mixed waste, which are regulated by other federal programs.



Interior view of a storage dome at Technical Area 54

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY "STORAGE"?

Storage means the holding of hazardous waste in containers within a controlled environment for a limited period. After this time, the waste is generally taken off-site for treatment, storage, or disposal at other approved facilities.

WHICH STORAGE UNITS ARE AFFECTED?

The permit renewal application lists 22 container storage units within three areas of the Laboratory—Technical Areas 50, 54, and 55. These units range in size from small rooms to large storage domes. The permit renewal application describes how hazardous wastes such as spent chemicals and process wastes are managed within these units.

WHAT TYPES OF STORAGE RELATED ACTIVITIES ARE COVERED IN THE PERMIT RENEWAL APPLICATION?

The permit renewal application describes risk reduction and safe storage procedures for a range of activities such as:

- identifying the types of waste generated so they can be properly managed,
- waste container handling,
- storage unit design,
- container and container storage unit inspection,
- planning for emergencies,
- workforce training,
- security measures that prevent access to waste storage units, and
- future closure of units

HAVE YOUR SAY!

Once the Hazardous Waste Bureau releases the draft permit, the public will have an opportunity to review and provide written comments on its content. The Hazardous Waste Bureau will evaluate and respond to public comments.

The public and other interested parties can contribute valuable information and ideas to improve the quality of the final draft permit. Los Alamos National Laboratory would like you to be part of this review process.

View of a storage area at Technical Area 55



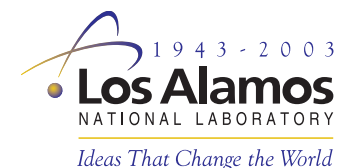
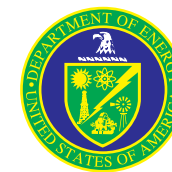
FIND OUT THE FULL STORY

Next week we will explain how the permit renewal application will address *treatment* at sites within Technical Areas 55 and 16.

NEED TO KNOW MORE?

To obtain more information, copies of this series, or be added to a mailing list to receive updated information, please contact *Carmen M. Rodriguez* at Los Alamos National Laboratory by phone on **505-665-6770**, or via email at **carmenr@lanl.gov**. We can also arrange presentations on this subject for your organization or group.

Thank you for taking the time to read this series.



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